

## Home Health Services Report Summary

Changes in the home health industry that began in 1999 appear to continue to affect service utilization in 2001. Changes in federal regulations changed reimbursement for agencies and forced agencies to alter business practices. Closures, mergers, and sales of agencies have been more prevalent.

The number of home health patients served in 2001 was 97,906, the second lowest number of patients served in the last seven years. However, the number served is an increase from 2000, the lowest year in the last seven. This number is well below the seven year average (1995-2001) of 103,898 patients served. The number of patients served increased from 1995 to 1996 by almost 13,000 patients then rose again in 1997 before declining in 1998, 1999, and 2000, increasing again in 2001. (See Chart on following page.)

According to hospital discharge data for 2001, 35,165 patients were discharged from Kentucky hospitals to home health services. This number represents 6.3% of the 561,344 total patients discharged from Kentucky hospitals.

When looking at the Area Development Districts (ADDs) individually, six of the fifteen ADDs showed an increase in patients served from 2000 to 2001. Further analysis of these ADDs is warranted.

Data shows that the largest population of patients of home health services was from ages 75-84 consisting of 24% of the total patients in 2001. Patients age cohort 45-64 made up 21% of the patients served and 65-74 made up 21% of all patients served. Patients over 85 years of age made up 15% of the total number of patients served. These figures seem logical since it is expected that as people age; they will require more health services. However, there are less people in the over 85 age group in the total population and many of these may require higher levels of care than can be provided by home health agencies. Analysis of the age distribution among home health patients from 1995 to 2001 shows change over the past seven years. The 45-64 age group has increased in proportion to the other age cohorts.

Charts representing the data discussed in this summary are presented on the following pages.